

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday June 9th, 2024

Open Call for Dublin Maker 2024

Dublin Maker returns in 2024 for an action-packed two days of fun at Richmond Barracks in Dublin 8. Due to the record-breaking crowd in 2023, the event is now expanded and will be held on Saturday, 31st August, and Sunday, 1st September. Last year's visitors were entertained by three radio-themed stands, among many others. This sort of science outreach is essential to excite and enthuse the next generation about our hobby. The open call for projects for this year's Dublin Maker is now running. If you have a project, demo, or workshop that you would like 15,000 people to see, you are encouraged to apply. You can submit your proposals at

www.dublinmaker.ie/open-call/

Shannon Basin Radio Club Meeting on June 21st

Shannon Basin Radio Club is holding their next club meeting on Friday the 21st of June. The venue is Hannons Hotel Roscommon, Eircode F42 PH33. The meeting will start at 8 p.m. The club is expecting a large turn-out of members is looking forward to seeing everyone. If you are interested in learning more about this and the club itself, please email admin /at/ sbrc.ie. Further information about Shannon Basin Radio Club may be found at www.sbr.ie and via their social media channels.

Collective Communication Update

From tomorrow, Monday the 10th of June until July 30th, some members of Collective Communication will be using the call sign EI 111 IAC (Irish Air Corps). This will be in commemoration of 25 years since rescue helicopter, call sign Rescue 111, crashed into sand dunes near Tramore beach on July 2nd, 1999, during thick fog while returning to Waterford airport. All crew members were lost in the accident. On June 15th, the amateur radio station at the Shannon Aviation Museum will be using EI 111 IAC for that single day.

During Saturday and Sunday 6 and 7th of July, Collective Communication will be on the Tramore promenade operating with the call sign EI111IAC. The club invites all to join them, either in person, or on air as they commemorate this very sad event. For further information on Rescue 111, see the EI111IAC page on QRZ.com compiled by Sam EI3IUB. To learn more about Collective Communication, call John EI3HQB at 086 870 9265.

SAQ celebrates 100 years on Alexanderson Day, June 30th, 2024.

The unique Alexanderson alternator from 1924, with the call sign SAQ, is scheduled for two transmissions on VLF 17.2 kHz CW on June 30th. Almost a hundred years ago, on December 1st, 1924, the long wave transmitter at Grimeton Radio Station, with the call sign SAQ, was put into commercial operation. Transmissions were across the Atlantic Ocean to a receiving station in Riverhead and with the replying transmitter station in Rocky Point, both on Long Island, NY, USA. The other transmitting and receiving stations in the RCA network are now long gone but SAQ has been preserved as a World Heritage Site and is still operational. The design and

manufacturing of such a robust a reliable radio transmitter was a monumental achievement by the Swedish-born inventor Ernst F.W. Alexanderson.

To receive the message, you can try using a wire as long as possible connected to the microphone socket of a laptop or PC soundcard. The soundcard can then be used as a receiver allowing you to try to receive the transmissions.

ARRL Confirm Network Attack

ARRL operate the popular Logbook of the World facility used globally. In a recent update, they confirmed that on or around May 12, 2024, that they were the victim of a sophisticated network attack by a malicious international cyber group. The FBI was engaged along with third party experts to investigate. This serious incident was extensive and categorized by the FBI as unique. It compromised their network devices, servers, cloud-based systems, and PCs. The ARRL quickly established an incident response team. They now report that an extensive effort to contain and remediate the networks and restore servers is enabling staff begin the testing of applications and interfaces to ensure proper operation.

Contest Updates

If you took part in the IRTS CW field day at the start of the month, please note that the deadline for logs is next Sunday June 16th. You can submit your logs via email to contestmanager /at/ irts.ie.

Next weekend, over Saturday and Sunday the 15th and 16th of June, the RSGB 50MHz Trophy Contest takes place. It runs from 14:00 UTC on Saturday for 24 hours. Modes permitted are SSB, CW, FM, AM, JT6M, ISCAT, and FSK441. The exchange is RS and T where applicable, serial number, and a 6-character grid locator. Further information may be found at www.rsgbcc.org This coincides with the 2024 IARU Region 1 50 MHz CW/SSB Contest so plenty of activity on the 6m band can be expected next weekend.

Propagation Update

Over the past few days, the K-index which is a measure of geomagnetic field strength disturbance has been three or below. Combined with a solar flux peaking above 170, this indicates excellent HF propagation opportunities were to be had. Despite a short-lived solar storm on June 7th, NOAA's short-range geomagnetic forecast indicates it's a good time to make the most of the HF bands over the coming days.

For VHF and above, there is no significant tropospheric propagation expected over the first part of the week at least as low pressure pushes in. However, Sporadic E opportunities on the 8 and 6-meter bands have been noted and more can be expected. As we get further into the Sporadic E season, opportunities on the 2-meter band may even present themselves also.

Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam /at/ irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

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